

# **Friends of the GTM NERR**

## **Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 14, 2009**

### **Members Present:**

**Pierre Pierce, Bill Coleman, Carl Hampp, Peter Difatta, Irene Kaufman, Chris Rich, Triss Padgett, Kay Henderson, Jonathan, Katzen, Rob Matthews**

### **Staff Present:**

Teri Webley, Mike Shirley, Janet Zimmerman, Andrew Thornton, Susan VanHoek

### **Excused Absence:**

Nancy Schaclnovsky, Michael Timpane, Anita Pierce, Kevin Faver

### **Meeting called to order at 5pm by Pierre Pierce**

### **March Meeting Minutes Approval by Pierre Pierce**

Peter motioned to approve the March 10 meeting minutes  
Bill seconded, all approved none objected, March meeting minutes approved.

### **MAG Report by Mike Shirley**

Management Plan – Mike S reported on the progress of the GTM Research Reserve's management plan to the MAG committee. Some of that report is as follows, the management has passed the Acquisition and Restoration Council unanimously, and the management plan was met with so much approval at the state level that it may be used as the model for the state. On May 13 the management plan goes before the Governor and Cabinet.

The state budget was discussed at the MAG meeting. The potential loss of \$400,000 in revenue funds and the inability to collect those funds in the future was of special concern to the GTM Research Reserve. Fortunately Mike S was asked about that issue and with the answer given concerned individuals and groups were able to voice concern to their elected officials. As of last check the revenue funds are not an option for cutting at this time. The MAG connection and subsequent contacts were part of the solution.

The OFW (Outstanding Florida Waters) designation of the southern component of the GTM Research Reserve was discussed and an overview of the special basin designation was given at the MAG meeting.

Pierre Pierce has been moved from agency representative to citizen representative in an effort to balance representation on the MAG board.  
The logic being that Pierre represents a citizen support organization (Friends of the GTM Reserve) making him a citizen representative.

### **Research and Stewardship Committee by Peter Difatta**

Peter started by inviting anyone interested to join the Research and Stewardship Committee. There are 2 members on the committee, Peter and Anita.

Peter explained that the Butterfly Monitoring program requested \$200 for travel expenses for Dr. Akers Pence to come from Gainesville for volunteer training and support. Funds request details attached.

The Research and Stewardship Committee recommends approval of the funds request.

No vote is needed because the requested amount is below the amount requiring a vote.

The Research and Stewardship committee directed the Butterfly Monitoring program participants to include the name of the Friends of the GTM Reserve as a sponsor in any reports or articles about the program.

Peter invited board discussion on the subject.

Andrew fielded questions from the board as staff representative for the Butterfly Monitoring program.

The process for payment to Dr Pence was discussed. After several options the following was decided. Dr Pence will make 3 to 5 trips to the GTM Research Reserve from Gainesville. Andrew will provide a report stating how many times Dr. Pence was here and how many volunteers were trained.

### **Friends Second Quarter Report by Chris Rich**

Chris said that the second quarter report was ready for distribution to the Friends of the GTM Reserve general membership. Copies were handed out. The report will be emailed to the general membership with approval from Pierre Pierce.

There was some concern from Kay regarding the financial report.

There were some additional concerns from Directors and NERR staff present that the reported was not formatted as well as it could be.

Mike Shirley suggested that new staff member Susan Van Hoek could re-write the report to better meet the vision.

Teri will send Susan all the information used to assemble the report and Susan will work with Chris and Nancy to re-write the report.

### **Red Bay Tree Blight by Irene Kaufman**

Irene asked if the GTM Research Reserve had plans to address the Red Bay Tree Blight and if the Friends of the GTM Reserve should be involved.

Irene went on to explain that she attended a presentation about the issue wanted to know if the GTM Research Reserve was using the fungicide injection she learned about at the presentation she attended.

Mike Shirley said that there were no plans to use the injection system at this time. Andrew Thornton explained that the process using the injection system could be damaging to the trees so for now they would not use it.

Blight cont.

Mike Shirley said that if the situation presented itself that the need to treat for the blight arose, there would be a cost analysis done and a presentation made to the Friends.

Mike Shirley explained that the blight issue would most likely need a volunteer group to spearhead any real progress in getting a program started in this area. Andrew will work with volunteers to get started.

Pierre suggested using the media to educate the public and to raise funds for the program.

### **Development Committee Report by Jonathan Katzen**

A report was handed out.

Jonathan explained that for the 08-09 fiscal year donations are down by approximately 50% and that the Development Committee reduced expenses by about 60%.

Jonathan spoke about the need to look at fund raising ideas not traditionally used by the Friends of the GTM Reserve.

The need to work with the business community was discussed. The current economy and the difficulty local businesses are having staying solvent raised the question as to whether this is the time to approach local businesses for donations.

### **Boy Scout Kiosk by Kay Henderson**

Kay suggested that the matching funds sent to the Friends of the GTM Reserve by the Bank of America be used for the needed upgrades and repairs for the Boy Scout Kiosk.

Mike Shirley asked that the Friends of the GTM Reserve postpone using the donated funds to repair the kiosk until he can look into state funds for the repairs.

### **Research Reserve Update by Mike Shirley**

The latest on the building repairs is that the needed repairs have been given emergency status by the state.

There will not be any repairs started until after May at the earliest.

There are 3 contractors working with the state to get the price down to one the state can live with.

The roof of the Environmental Education Center and the air conditioning unit on the same building are going to be repaired.

### **Other Business**

Pierre noted that the GTM Research Reserve or the Friends of the GTM Reserve were not represented at the Water Management District's meeting concerning withdrawing 150 million gallons of water from the St Johns River.

Pierre suggested assembling a committee that would introduce and oversee a letter writing campaign concerning withdrawals from the St Johns River.

Mike Shirley said that NERR staff is not in a position to get involved in the water withdrawal issue.

Other cont.

While the withdrawal issue is an important one there are several that the NERR staff can work on more effectively bringing the matter to choosing ones battles. Mike Shirley suggested a letter of concern from the Friends of the GTM Reserve.

Janet reported about the Education and Communications Committee meeting the previous evening. Mike Timpane suggested a 1-½ hour workshop for Friends Directors and NERR staff to identify fundraising items and work on the yearly budget all at once. This would allow both groups to see budget items side by side. A Board meeting to vote on funds requests for the year could follow the workshop.

Mike Shirley explained how this process works at the state level.

The workshop could be planned for June.

Pierre adjourned the meeting at 6pm

Bill motioned to adjourn

Irene seconded all approved none opposed, meeting adjourned

The next Friends of the GTM Reserve Board meeting will be Tuesday May 12, 2009